## INTERVIEW SUMMARY Work Assignment ES002 Lower Darby Creek Area Site

John "Jack" Banta

Prepared for:

## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III

Enforcement Support Services Hazardous Site Cleanup Division 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19103

Prepared by:

## **DASTON Corporation**

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Work Assignment Number: Date Submitted: Contract Number: EPA Work Assignment Manager: Telephone Number: DASTON Work Assignment Manager: Telephone Number:

Interviewer:

ES002 November 28, 2001 68-S3-01-01

Carlyn Prisk (215) 814-2625

Tri-State Enterprise

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Name:

John "Jack" Banta (WITNESS)

(b) (6)

Affiliation:

Former Employee

Gene Banta Trash Removal, Inc.

Telephone:

(b) (6) In-Person

Type of Interview: Date of Interview:

November 27, 2001

On November 27, 2001, \*\*Composition based on Selection\*\* of Tri-State Enterprise interviewed the WITNESS at WITNESS' place of business. The WITNESS was interviewed as part of the potentially responsible party search currently being conducted under Work Assignment NO. ES-002, involving the Lower Darby Creek Area, Delaware County, PA (the "Site"). This interview focused on the Folcroft Landfill (Folcroft). The WITNESS was provided with a copy of the letter of introduction, advised of the nature of the questions to be asked and advised that the interview was voluntary. The WITNESS advised that he is not represented by an attorney in this matter and did not want an attorney. No other persons were present and this interview was not tape-recorded.

During the course of this interview, the WITNESS responded to questions based on guidelines provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for former employees.

The WITNESS was shown a map of the Site and this map was used throughout the interview.

The WITNESS was asked to explain his association with the site.

The WITNESS stated that his father, Gene Banta, owned and operated a waste transportation company known as the following. The WITNESS also provided the Company successor history.

Gene Banta Trash Removal, Inc.: The WITNESS stated that this Company was owned and operated by Gene Banta from about 1950 to 1974. The WITNESS stated that in 1974 Gene Banta sold Gene Banta Trash Removal, Inc. to Eugene Banta Jr. and Richard Banta. The WITNESS stated that at the time of the sale the Company name was changed to <a href="Haul Away Trash Removal">Haul Away Trash Removal</a>, Inc. The WITNESS stated that Haul Away Trash Removal, Inc. was sold to <a href="Harvey and Harvey">Harvey and Harvey</a> in 1984 and that Harvey and Harvey was sold to <a href="Waste">Waste</a> <a href="Management">Management</a> in about 1998.

The WITNESS stated that he worked for Gene Banta Trash Removal, Inc. (Banta) from 1968 to 1974. He indicated that he drove a trash truck during this time. The WITNESS stated that he drove a trash truck known as a "Lugger" truck the WITNESS explained that a lugger truck

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was used to pick up trash containers known a lugger. He described a lugger as an 8-qubic yard sealed steel container. During the time period he worked for Banta, He disposed of waste at the following locations.

- Sweeny's Landfill located in Aston PA.
- Delaware Sand and Gravel
- Folcroft Landfill

The WITNESS stated that Banta transported waste to all three of the above Landfills from the mid 1960s to the mid 1970s. He indicated that the truck driver would select the closest Landfill to the Site that he had picked up waste from.

The WITNESS stated that in the 1960s and 1970s the two largest industrial waste transporters in Delaware and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania were Banta and Eastern Industrial.

When asked how many trucks Banta operated the WITNESS stated that Banta operated more than ten trucks of all sizes. He indicated that Banta utilized approximately 100 roll-off containers. He explained that roll-off containers, ranging in size from 20-40 cubic yards, were placed at industrial sites.

The WITNESS stated that he did not operate the roll-off trucks. He indicated that he usually operated the lugger truck or a front- end loader truck.

When asked the names of the Companies that he picked up waste and transported to the Folcroft Landfill, the WITNESS provided the following.

- Bryton Chemical, now Witco Chemical: The WITNESS stated that Witco is located in Trainer, PA. He stated that he picked up a full 8-cubic yard lugger container from this location about two times each week. He described this waste as a brown sludge. He indicated that the sludge was referred to as barium and had a very foul chemical odor. He was unable to describe the odor other than that it was foul. The WITNESS stated that this waste was transported to the Folcroft Landfill. He identified the location on the Landfill where this waste was dumped.

The WITNESS stated that he also transported waste to the Folcroft Landfill in a front-end loader truck however he indicated that this waste was not industrial waste and he could not recall the names of the businesses he picked up this waste from.

The WITNESS stated that Banta transported waste from the following locations to the Folcroft Landfill. He stated that although he did not drive a roll-off container truck, he had observed Banta trucks pick up waste from these locations and had observed this waste being disposed of at the Folcroft Landfill.

- General Chemical Company: The WITNESS stated that General Chemical was also known as Allied Chemical and is located off of I95 near the Delaware and Pennsylvania

Jerry Worrell

State line. He indicated that Banta disposed of waste from roll-off containers at the Folcroft Landfill.

- <u>Scott Paper Company:</u> The WITNESS stated that Banta picked up waste in roll-off containers at this location and transported this waste to the Folcroft Landfill. The WITNESS stated that Scott Paper is located near the Philadelphia Airport.
- <u>Boeing Company</u>: The WITNESS stated that Banta picked up waste in roll-off containers at this location and transported the waste to the Folcroft Landfill.
- <u>Sun Ship:</u> The WITNESS stated that Banta picked up waste in roll-off containers at this location and transported the waste to the Folcroft Landfill.
- <u>American Visco:</u> The WITNESS stated that Banta picked up waste in roll-off containers at this location and transported the waste to the Folcroft Landfill.
- <u>Philadelphia Electric Company, Edistone Plant.</u>: The WITNESS stated that Banta picked up waste in roll-off containers and transported this waste to the Folcroft Landfill.

The WITNESS stated that Banta had more industrial accounts, however he could not recall any additional names.

When asked to describe the operation at the Folcroft Landfill, the WITNESS stated that the entrance to the Landfill was off of Calcon Hook Road. He stated that there was a building or trailer at the entrance to the Landfill and all trucks were required to stop at the entrance. He indicated that an employee of the Landfill would fill out a receipt ticket with the amount charged to Banta for use of the Landfill. He indicated that Banta was charged by the size of the container or truck. He indicated that loads were not weighed and that trash was not inspected. He stated that he was never asked what the waste consisted of.

When asked the names of any of the Folcroft Landfill employees, the WITNESS stated that he did not know any of the Landfill employees.

When asked the names of other Banta truck drivers, the WITNESS stated that most of the drivers he remembers are deceased. He stated that the following individual drove a truck for Banta in the early 1970s and is still living in the area.

"I declare under penalty of perjury that	t the foregoing is true and correct."
Executed on	Signed

(Date)

John Banta

## Interviewer's Comments and Suggested Follow-up Interviews

<u>Interviewer Comments:</u> The WITNESS was cooperative and forthcoming. He agreed to contact the interviewer if he recalls the names of additional Companies that had waste transported to the Folcroft Landfill. He also agreed to contact me if he remembers any former Banta employees that are still living.

The WITNESS offered to visit the Folcroft Landfill and point out the exact location of the area on the Landfill that he disposed of Bryton Chemical Company waste. He was advised that his offer would be passed on.

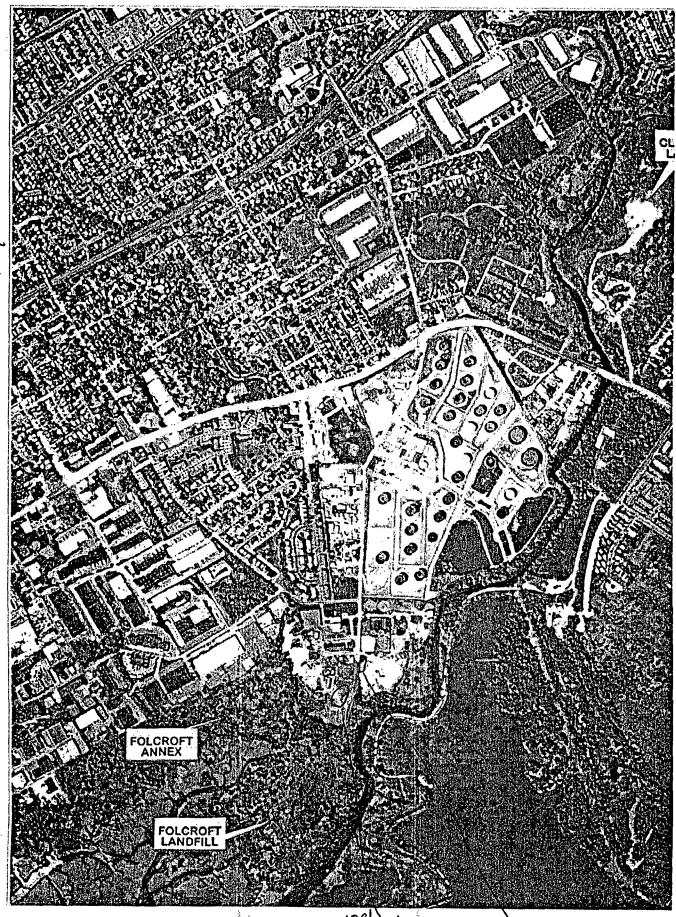
The WITNESS has owned and operated Banta's Bestway Trash Remove All Company since 1984. He stated that this company has never been associated with Banta or any Banta successor companies. The WITNESS operates this Company out of a garage located at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tilgon Streets in Chester City, PA. He advertises this Company for residential, commercial and industrial customers. He may currently have some industrial customers that Banta had and is reluctant to name them.

The WITNESS requested that his name be kept confidential to the extent possible.

<u>Suggested follow-up Interviews:</u> The WITNESS provided the name of the following individual that drove a truck for Banta in the early 1970s.

- Jerry Worrell

John 1990A



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